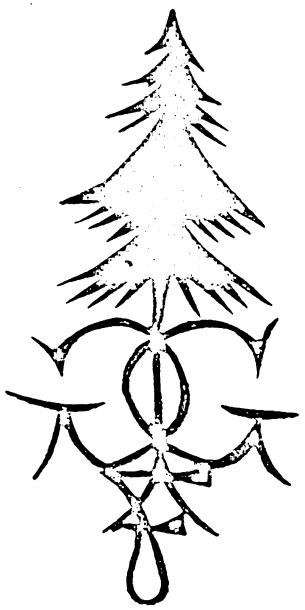

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Girotondi e Filastrocche

Come si cantano in varie parti d'Italia - Illustrazioni di Bona Gigliucci

Round dances and Rigmaroles

As sung in various parts of Italy - Illustrations by Bona Gigliucci

Translations by N. M. M.

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Giulio Giannini & Figlio
Editori - Firenze

Giulio Giannini & Figlio
Publishers - Florence

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Mamma, mamma pollaiola....

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1° Bambino :

Mamma, mamma pollaiola
Quanti Polli hai nel pollaio,

Coro :

Io ce n' ho quanti n'avevo
E ne tengo infin che n' ho.

1° Bambino :

Dammene uno per mio vantaggio
Quando passo son sempre solo.

Coro :

Prendi, prendi quel che ti pare
Ma il più bello lascialo stare.

1° Bambino

Il più bello che ci sia
Te lo voglio portar via.

1st Child :

Mother, mother Cock and Hen,
How many chickens are in your pen?

Chorus :

Just as many as there were
And I' ll keep all that are here

1st Child :

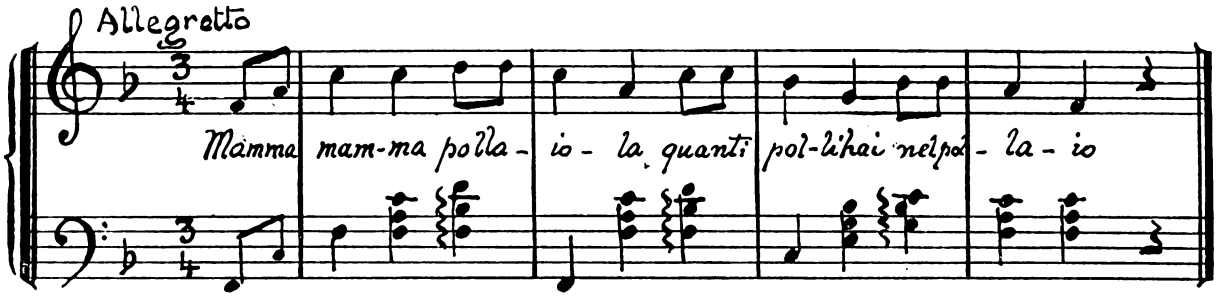
Give me one, I ask one only
As I pass by, ever lonely.

Chorus :

Take, o take which thou preferest
So thou doest not touch the fairest.

1st Child :

T' is the fairest one, I say,
That I mean to take away.



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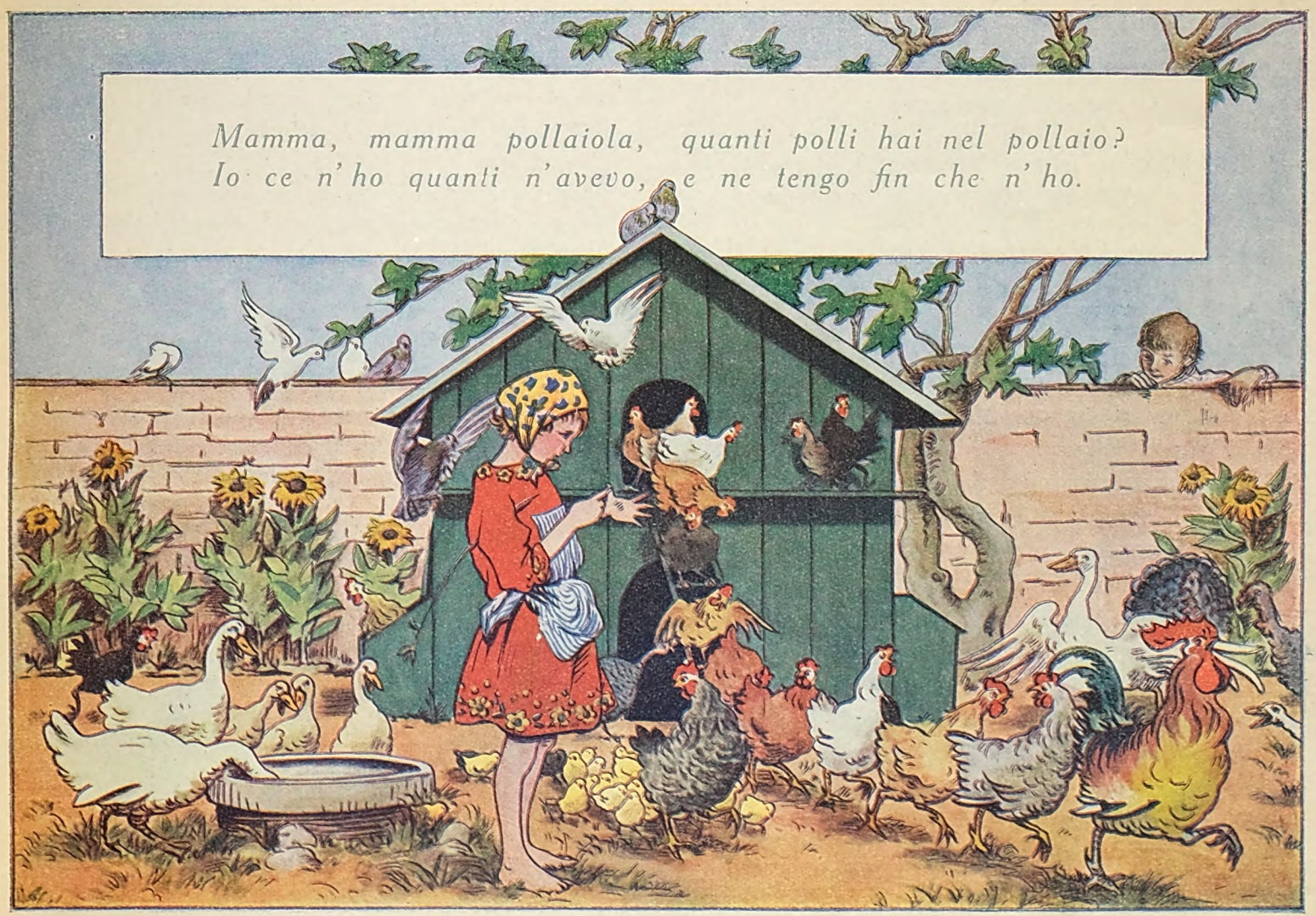

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I bimbi si mettono in giro tondo meno uno che resta fuori e cantano come sopra.

Poi il bimbo va in giro battendo sulla spalla di ciascuno e sillabando (ogni sillaba un colpetto):

Fra-te-mo-na-ca-ar-ci-mo-na-ca,
Mi-ven-ga-a-reg-ge-re-la-to-na-ca.

Il bimbo che riceve l'ultimo colpetto esce dal cerchio e va dietro al primo, prendendolo per il vestito, e così di seguito, fino a che non restano che due soli del giro tondo.
Questi si accordano per prendere un colore ciascuno, per esempio: bianco per significare la Porta del Paradiso, – rosso per la Porta dell'Inferno.
Si prendono per le mani e fanno un arco.
Il primo della fila, passando sotto l'arco, deve scegliere uno dei colori e secondo il colore scelto, deve porsi dietro l'uno o l'altro; e da tutti viene festeggiato se va in Paradiso e urlato se va nell'Inferno.
Ogni volta vengono cambiati i colori e così di seguito fino alla fine.

The children stand in a circle hand in hand except one who remains outside. They sing as above.

Then the child goes round touching the others one by one on the shoulder and pronouncing (each touch a syllable):

Monk-and-nun-and-ab-bess-fi-ne.
Come-and-hold-this-gown-of-mi-ne.

The child who is last to be touched leaves the circle and goes behind the first child, holding on to his or her frock, and so on till only two of the circle are left.
These arrange together to take a colour each, for instance: white to stand for the Gate of Heaven, – red for the Gate of Hell.
They join hands forming an archway.
The first to file under the archway has to choose one of the colours and according to the colour chosen has to stand behind one or the other; and is cheered if he or she goes to Heaven and hooted if to Hell.
Each time the colours are changed and so on till the end.

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Cavallo Imperatondo....

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Gira, gira tondo,
Cavallo Imperatondo,
Cavallo d'argento,
Che pesa cinquecento.
Centocinquanta,
La gallina canta.
Lasciatela cantare,
La voglio maritare.
Le voglio dar il Sole.
Il sole è troppo forte!
Le voglio dar la Morte.
La Morte è troppo scura!
Le voglio dar la Luna.
La Luna è troppo bella!
C'è mia sorella,
Che fa i biscottini,
Per darli ai bambini.
I bambini stanno male,
Stanno all'ospedale.
L'ospedale sta lassù....
Dai un bacio a chi vuoi tu. (1)

(1) Qui tutti i bambini si baciano.

Round and round and round about
The Emperor's horse goes round about,
A horse of shining silver,
Five-hundredweight of silver.
One hundred add to five times ten,
And "cackle, cackle" goes the hen.
Let her cackle all her fill,
She shall wed, for so's my will.
She shall wed the Sun, sir.
O, the sun's too strong, dear!
She shall wed with Death, sir.
O, but Death's too dark and drear!
She shall wed the Moon, sir.
O, the Moon's too wonderous fair!
Here comes my sister,
Who makes the sugar biscuits,
To give the little children.
The children are not well at all,
They 're lying in the hospital.
The hospital stands on the hill....
Now give a kiss to whom you will. (1)

(1) Here all the children kiss.

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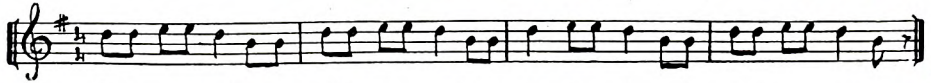
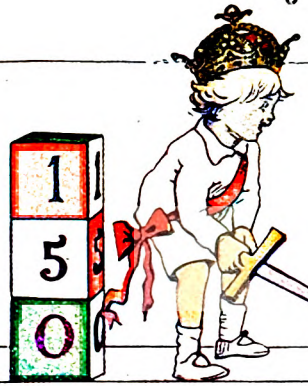
GIRA,
GIRA TONDO,
CAVALLO
IMPERATONDO,
CAVALLO
D' ARGENTO

CHE PESA
CINQUECENTO
CENTO
CINQUANTA
LA GALLINA
CANTA



Gira gira tondo ca - vall' Imperatondo cavallo d' argento che pesa cinquecento



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Questa filastrocca è stata raccolta nelle Marche, dove i bambini le cantano in girotondo.

This rigmarole has been collected in the Marche where the children sing it going round in a ring.

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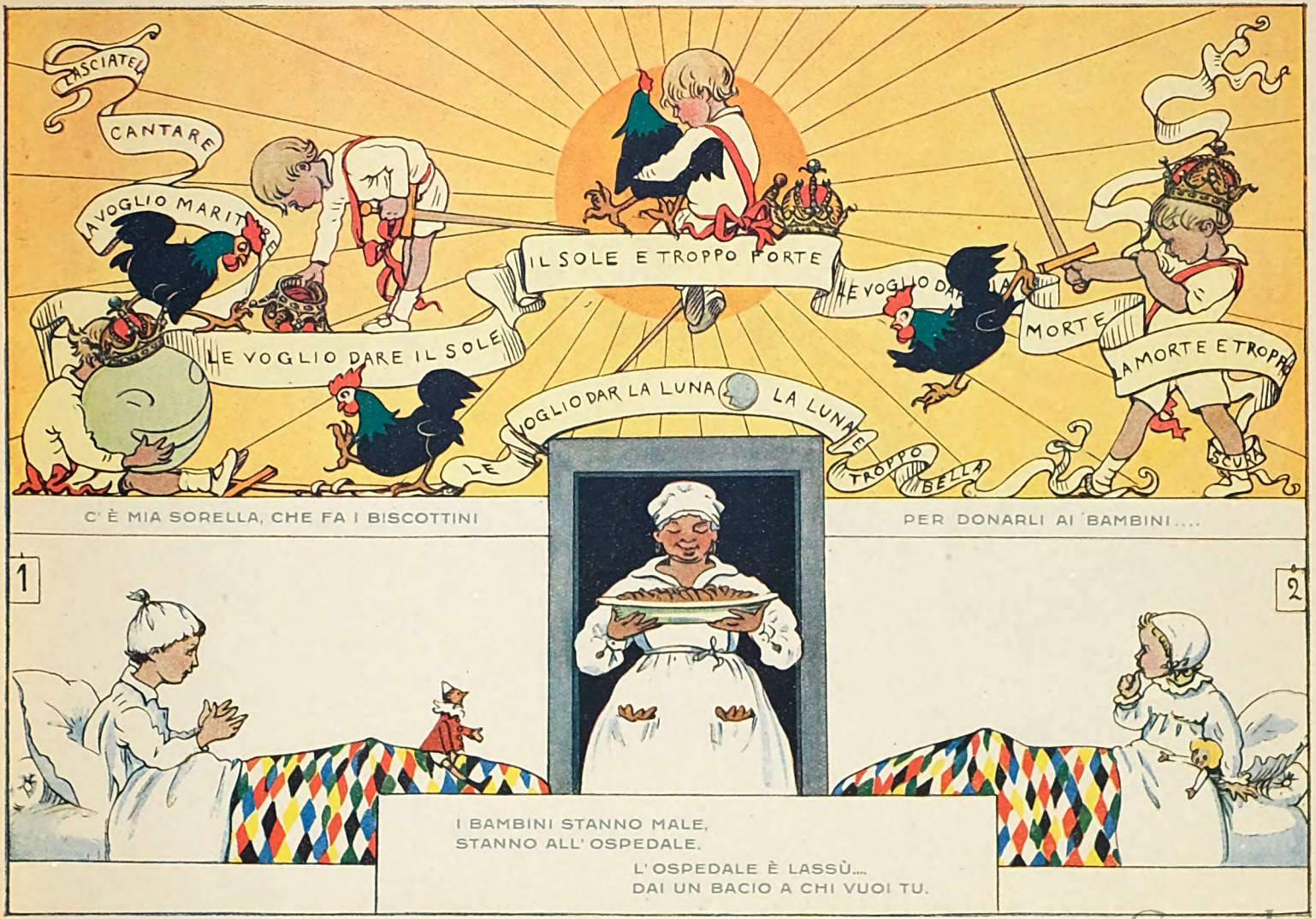

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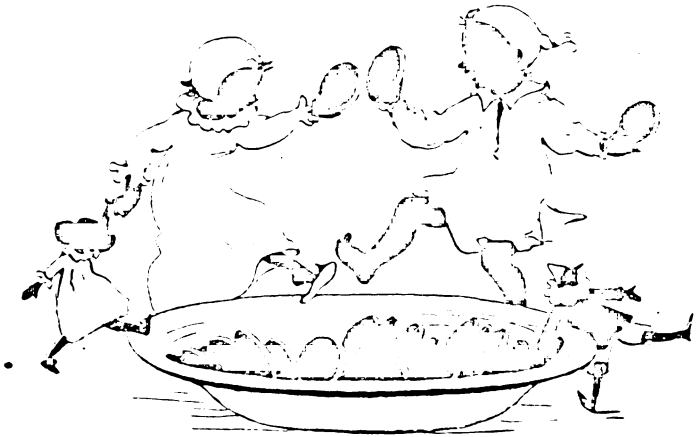

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Sega, Segante....

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Sega segante,
Le pecorine bianche,
L'uovo del colombo,
Gesù ci manda il sonno.
Sonno, sonnaio
La festa di Gennaio,
Gennaio va alla festa
Con tre corone in testa.
Passa la fante
Con tre cavalle bianche,
Bianca la sella,
Bianco lo straccale,
La padrona è bella!
Parlato: Bella, bella la Padrona,
Brutta, brutta la Garzona.

Saw away saw,
The little white sheep,
The wood-pigeon's egg,
Our Lord sends us sleep.
Sleep, now, sleep on
Comes Twelfth Night along,
He goes to the revel
Three crowns on his noddle.
Here comes the serving-maid
With three white mares, O,
White is the saddle,
And white is the girth, O,
Fair's the Lady for to see.
Spoken: A lovely, lovely Lady she,
And an ugly, ugly Maid.

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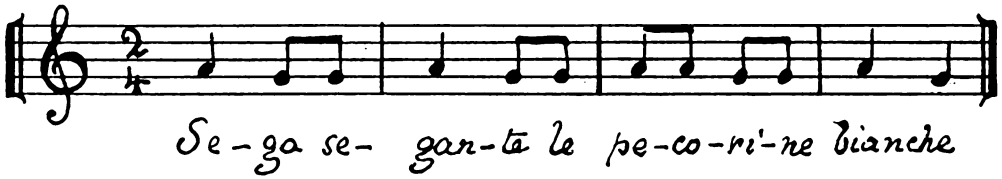
Filastrocca raccolta nella Montagna Pistoiese.

Rigmarole heard in the Appennines above Pistoia.



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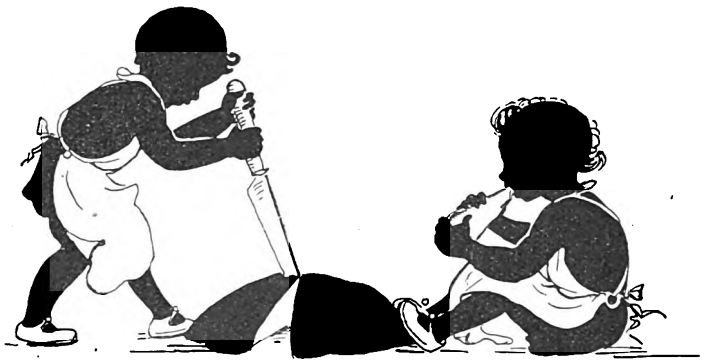

Un pane ed un pan tondo....

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Giro, giro tondo,
Un pane ed un pan tondo,
Un mazzo di viole
Per darlo e chi lo vuole.
Lo vuole la . . . . . (1)
S'inginocchi la più piccina.

(1) Nome in diminutivo "ino" o "ina".

Ring a ring a ring around,
A loaf of bread, the loaf is round,
A posy all of violets
To give to her that asks for it.
. . . . . wants it for her own
And the youngest shall kneel down.

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Questo è uno dei girotondi più conosciuti in Italia.
Gli ultimi due versi sono parlati ed il bambino nominato s' inginocchia.

This is one of the most popular children's rounds in Italy.
The two last verses are spoken and the child who is named kneels down.

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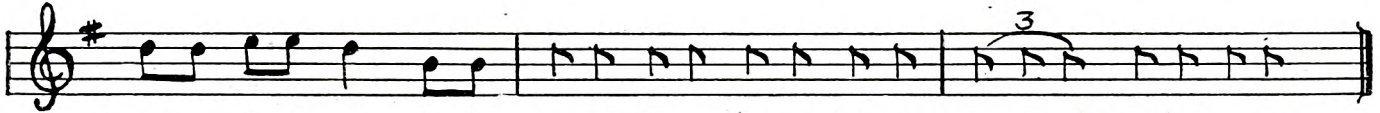

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O quante belle figlie,
Madama Doré....

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O quante belle figlie, Madama Doré,
O quante belle figlie.
Son belle e me le tengo, Madama Doré,
Son belle e me le tengo.
Il Re ne comanda una, Madama Doré,
Il Re ne comanda una.
Che cosa ne vuol fare? Madama Doré,
Che cosa ne vuol fare?
La vuole maritare, Madama Doré,
La vuole maritare.
A chi la vuole dare? Madama Doré,
A chi la vuole dare?
Al Principin di Roma, Madama Doré,
Al Principin di Roma.
Entrate nel mio castello, Madama Doré,
Entrate nel mio castello.
Sceglietevi la più bella, Madama Doré,
Sceglietevi la più bella.
La più bella me l'ho già scelta, Madama Doré,
La più bella me l'ho già scelta.

A bevy of fair daughters, my Lady Doré,
A bevy of fair daughters.
Ay fair and mine to keep, Sir, my Lady Doré,
Ay fair and mine to keep, Sir.
The King has sent for one, ma'am, my Lady Doré,
The King has sent for one, ma'am.
What is it she is sent for? My Lady Doré,
What is it she is sent for?
She's sent for to be married, my Lady Doré,
She's sent for to be married.
To whom will se be married? My Lady Doré,
To whom will se be married?
To the little Prince of Rome, ma'am, my Lady Doré,
To the little Prince of Rome, ma'am.
Now enter, Sir, my castle, my Lady Doré,
Now enter, Sir, my castle.
Now choose you, Sir, the fairest, my Lady Doré,
Now choose you, Sir, the fairest.
The fairest I have chosen, my Lady Doré,
The fairest I have chosen.

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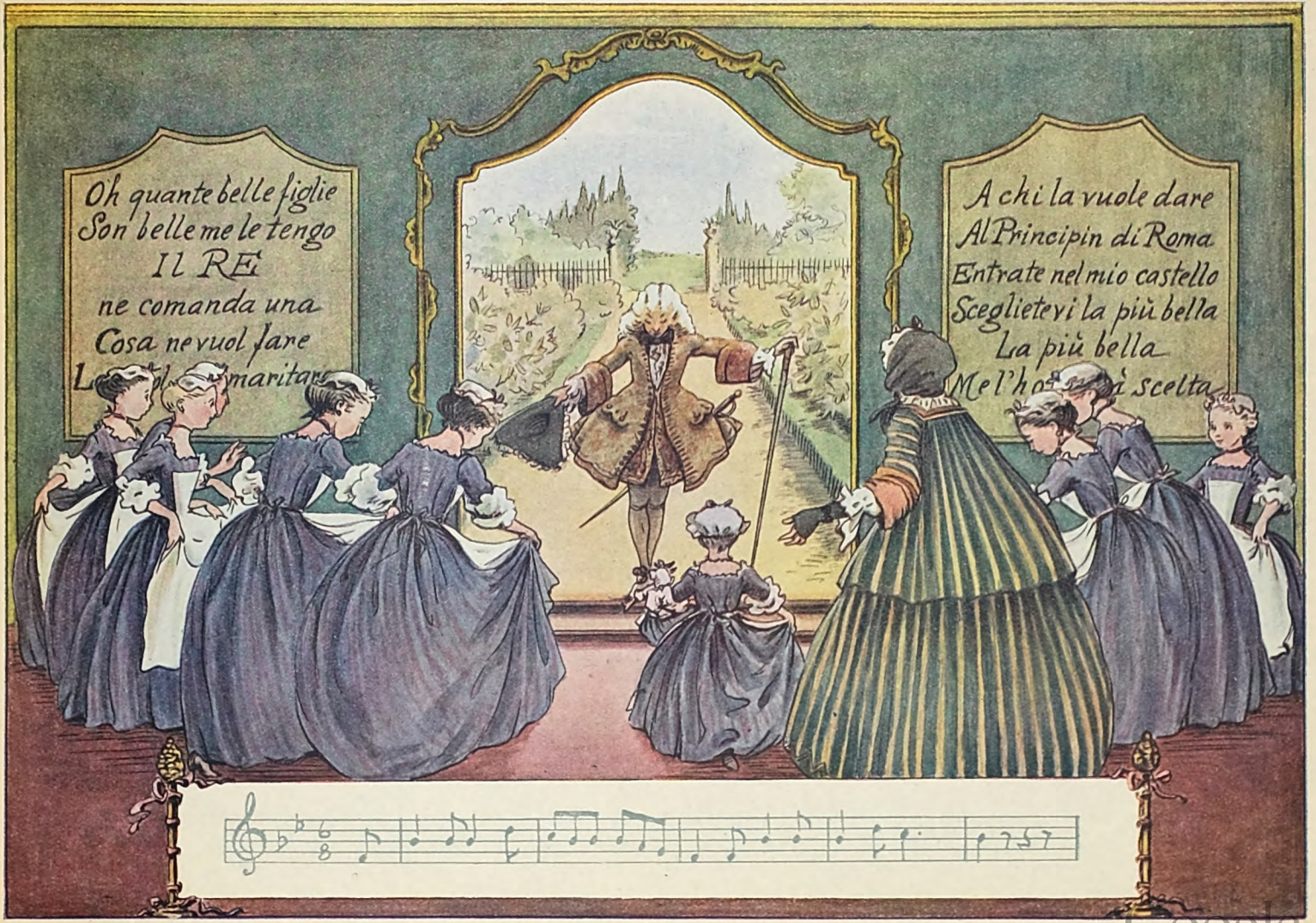

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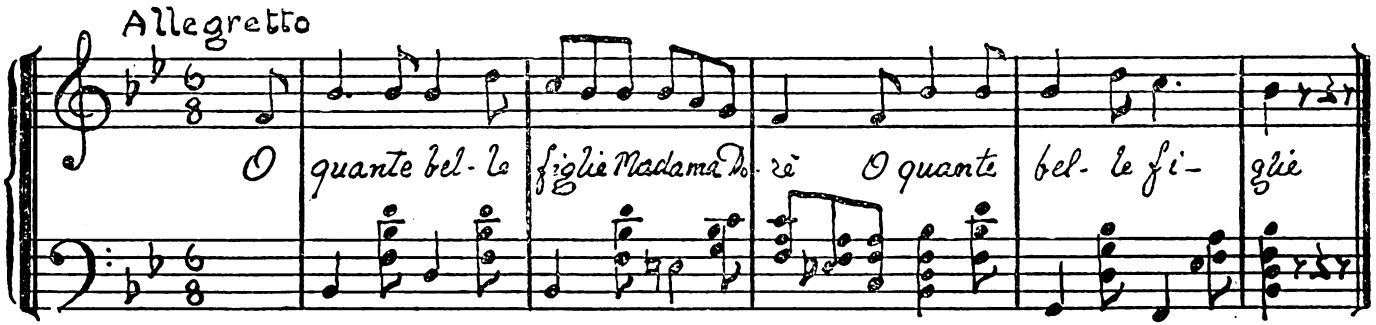
I bambini formano un girotondo tenendosi per mano tutti meno uno, il quale rimane fuori del cerchio, e cantano come sopra.
Al verso "Entrate nel mio Castello...." il bambino, che sta fuori, entra nel cerchio e sceglie il compagno che vuole, il quale lo segue fuori del cerchio tenendolo per il vestito.
Il canto ricomincia e, giunti di nuovo al verso "Entrate ecc.", il primo bambino rientra nel cerchio e ne porta fuori un altro compagno, al quale poi si attacca quello scelto prima: e questi tre girano intorno per conto loro tenendosi sempre l'un dietro l'altro. E così si ripete il gioco fino a che il primo cerchio non è sciolto.

The children stand in a ring hand in hand, all except one, who remains outside the ring, and they sing as above.
At the verse "Now enter, Sir, my Castle" the child who is outside enters the ring and chooses a companion, who follows him or her out of the ring holding on to his or her frock. The song is taken up again and when the verse "Now enter, etc." is again reached, the first child reenters the ring and fetches out another companion, to which the previously chosen one then holds on by the back of the frock. These three go round on their own account, one behind the other. And thus the game continues, repeating itself till the last child is chosen.



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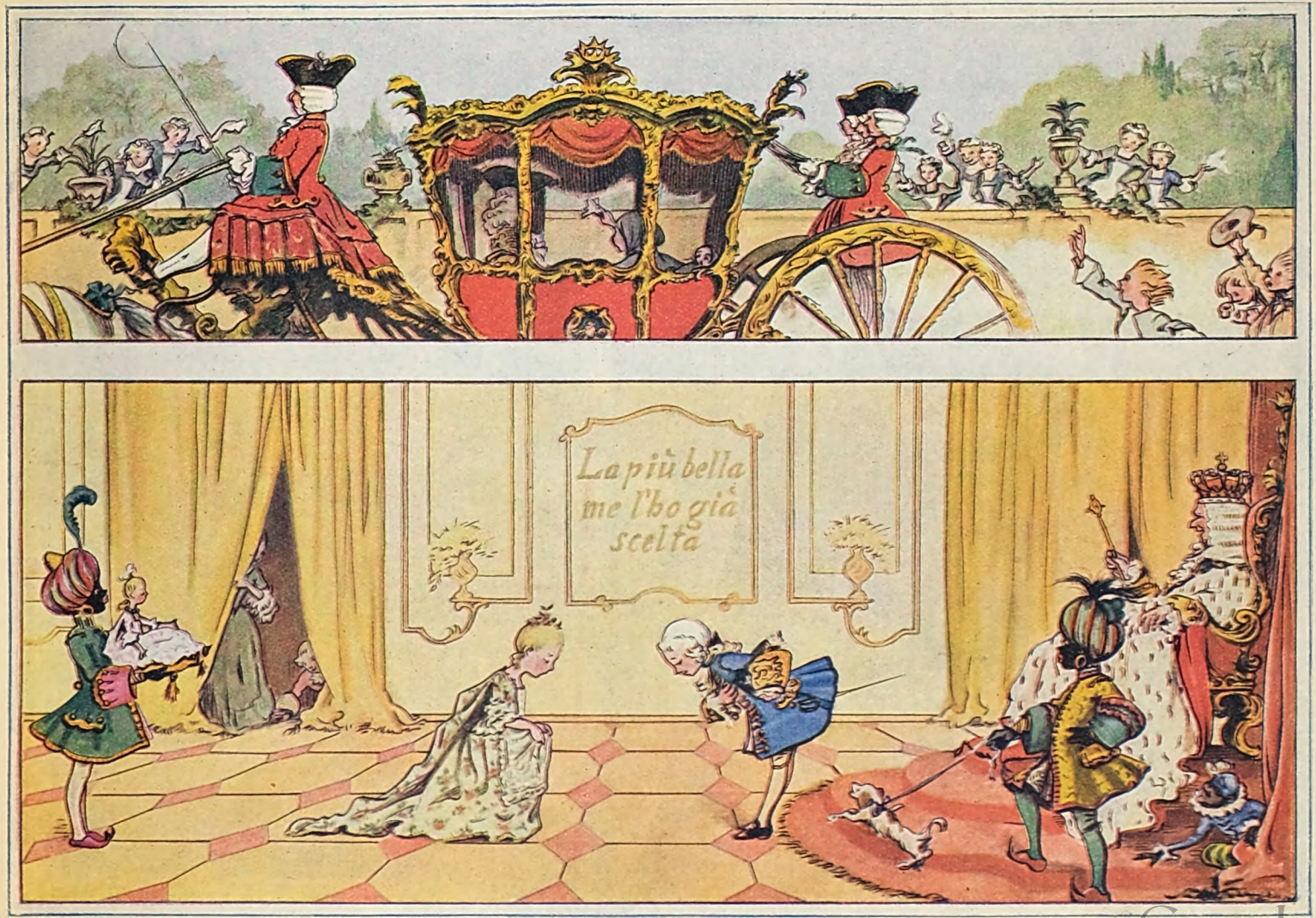

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Ballate, ballate, o vergini::::

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Ballate, ballate, o vergini,
Che gli Angioli vi suona.
Ballate, ballate, o vergini,
Che gli Angioli vi suonerà.
Se . . . . . si rivoltasse
Sarebbe un angiolo da baciasse,
Tutta piena di rose e di fiori,
. . . . . su voltatevi voi!

(A turno ógni bambina, che viene chiamata a nome, si gira in modo da voltare le spalle al centro del cerchio di bambine).

Dance little maidens, dance away,
It is for you that the Angels play.
Dance little maidens, dance away,
And the Angels will ever play.
If . . . . . turn around, t'is she
An angel fit for a kiss will be,
All over roses and posies, see,
. . . . . so turn yourself round!

(Each little girl, as her name is called, turns round with her back towards the centre of the ring).

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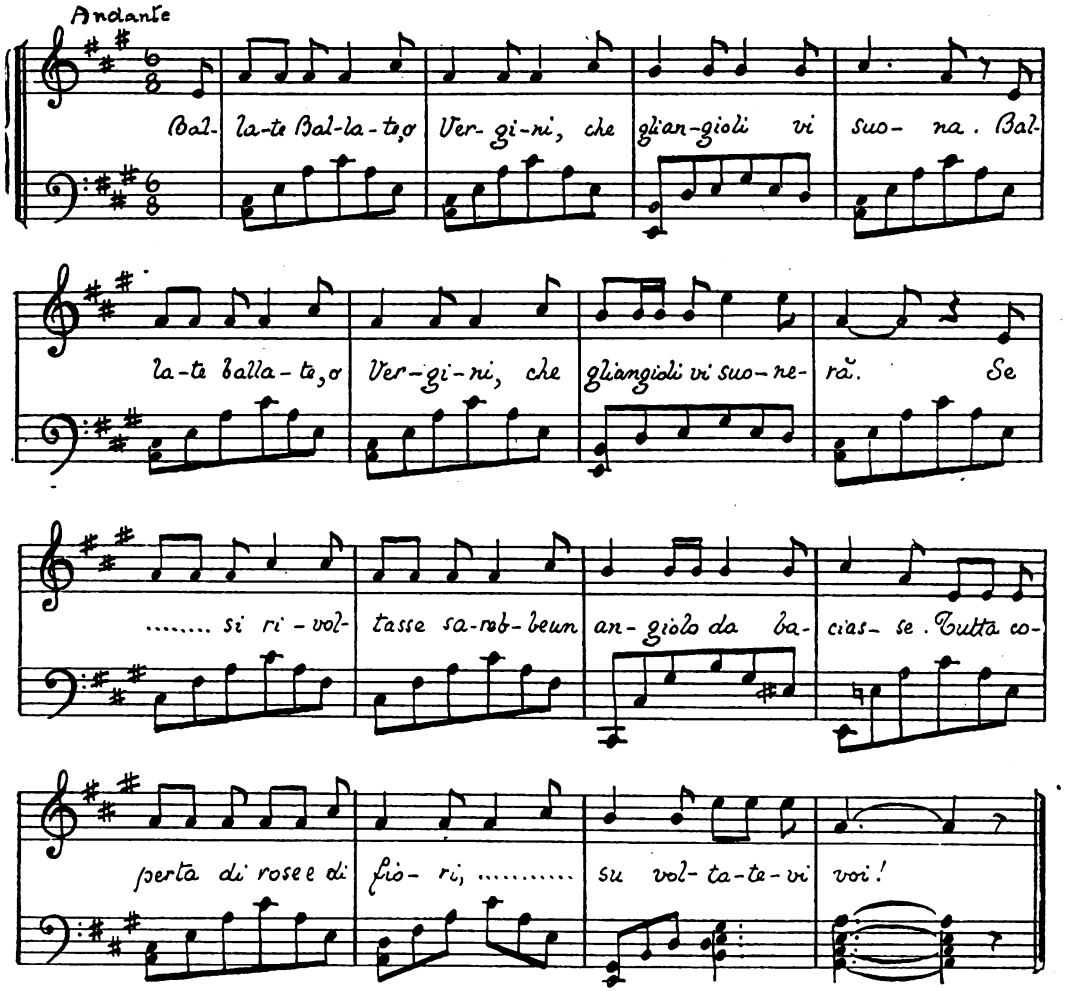

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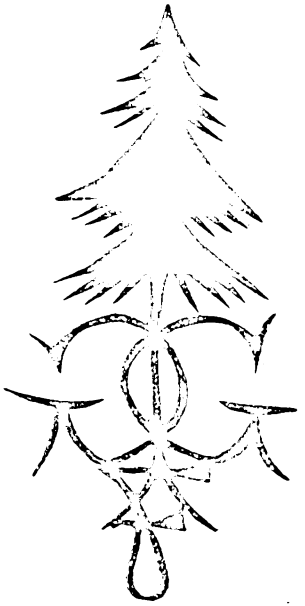

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